

Program Insights



Enhancing the Diversity of the NIH-Funded Workforce Program



Last week we introduced the *Program Insights* newsletter with information about **Innovation** and questions to help formulate **good ideas**.

After this week's newsletter, we will only send the update to the Diversity email list, so if you wish to continue receiving this update directly in your inbox, make sure to sign-up for that list here: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/diversityregister>.

The Award Mechanism

The Diversity program is using linked Cooperative Agreements to administer and fund BUILD, NRMN, and CEC. Here's an overview of what you need to know:

Cooperative Agreement (U54)

- The U54 is a specialized center grant that allows various coordinated activities to take place within an award.
- NIH staff will have substantial scientific or programmatic involvement that is above and beyond normal stewardship role in awards.
- The cooperative agreement is an "assistance" mechanism, rather than an "acquisition" mechanism.
- An Executive Steering Committee will serve as the primary governing board for the cooperative agreement funded under this FOA.
- The CEC awardee will collaborate with the BUILD and NRMN awardees through the Diversity Program Consortium to achieve program goals.

Linked Equivalents (BUILD)

- Successful applications will be disaggregated into linked awards to the primary institution.
- The RL5 is the linked equivalent to the R25, Research Education Projects.
- The TL4 is the linked equivalent to the T34, Undergraduate Student Institutional Training National Research Service Award.

Explanations about using the linked awards in a program proposal are found in the Student Training Core and the Research Enrichment Core of the FOA (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-13-016.html>).

Preparing Your Application – Think. Plan. Write.

Once you've developed an innovative and transformative idea, you may want to use this checklist to make a plan before writing your application.

- Search published literature for ideas and results to leverage promising principles/projects to inform novel approaches and/or expansion of existing efforts in novel ways. Review the background sources
- Read the BUILD, NRMN, CEC FOAs – have a solid plan for how your proposed program will integrate with the other initiatives
- Consult the instructions and resources
 - [FOA Instructions](#)
 - [PHS 398 application instructions](#) (and budget forms required for BUILD)
 - [Technical Assistance Webinar](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - [Grant Writing Tips](#)

Start thinking about how to clearly articulate your plan, how to relate the transformational nature of the proposal, and how to illustrate the overall impact it will have on biomedical research training.

NEWS and UPDATES:

- A notice clarifying information in the BUILD FOA was published last week. Read it here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-RM-14-008.html>
- The Diversity program has launched an interactive discussion forum to allow interested parties to exchange ideas for innovative and creative strategies to enhance diversity in the biomedical research workforce. Join the conversation here: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/diversityblog/>
- Quick links to the Technical Assistance Webinar materials are available here: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/diversity/index>
- Have more questions? Look to see if they've already been answered in the updated FAQ here: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/diversity/faq>

Don't forget, you can always send your questions to BUILDNRMNCEC@nih.gov.

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